~~[illegible]~~

Dublin, March 10, 1859

My Dear Mr May — The passage in your letter recd yesterday which touched me most was that where you say that poor Mr Wallcutt groans over the poor returns from the Foreign Liberators. — I would be much obliged by his furnishing me a list of the defaulters real or supposed. I cannot find that many of those that are in the habit of paying me are among them — several have paid since the year came in, & of these I have not yet sent you the names. But when Mr W. sends me the list I will print a circular & forward it to every one of them & I think the money will come in. I think it might be as well to send me a sort of appointment as your voluntary & unpaid agent in this matter — so that people who be unwilling to give me any needless trouble in the collection. I don't think it trouble though I call it so — for it is a real pleasure to be able to help you on in your good efforts.

When Mr W. sends me his list with the dates due for I will mark off (out of my books) any which I have been paid for but have not yet been reported to you. Many persons subscribe to the Lib. with whom I have little or no communication & who have not been in the habit of paying me. I would print my commission at the top of my notes of application & if it was signed by W. L. G. so much

I never think you neglectful or any thing but most kind & attentive to my enquiries. Your letters are always a great pleasure, giving just the information I wish for.

the better as he is generally regarded as the proprietor who is the lawful receiver of the cash.

As to your idea of a League it wd be a charming thing if it could be brought to bear — but I am very sceptical. I will give your list and my opinion of them.

Armistead — I have lent him valuable A.S. books for a year — when I ask for them, he writes me letters, but forgets to answer my questions respecting them. I have never seen him — but am prejudiced against him on this account. I think he is a somewhat dry Quaker & very cautious & timid.

Joseph Lupton. — Have never seen him. Believe he is a good fellow — but not active in the cause — & a little "high & mighty" as a rich man

The Patons. — Excellent — but great stayers at home. Andrew not fond of writing. His sisters dont write at all.

The Wighams. — Mrs Wigham, Eliza, their sister in Dublin Mrs Edmundson are as good as gold. The brothers in Dublin somewhat dry & not active in A.S. matters. Good plain home men.

Prof. Nichol. — In my opinion very small in our way. His wife is a jewel — but is a good deal swallowed up in him. She is a fine woman — but has little time for any thing not immediately connected with the Dr — as she calls him.

Miss Estlin. — She does not like much personal publicity — & looks on the maintenance of the Advocate as her peculiar province.

Mrs Stephens of Bristol. — I hardly know — she is I believe a good woman — but is also a mere wife.

Miss Whitelegge. — Very good — but wd be hardly like to help much in council.

Philip Carpenter. — You know & I don't. He is I believe a saint in his way. Mr Robson has a very high opinion of him

MS. B.1.2 v.15, p. 40

he is high principled – a hard worker – but greatly swallowed up by conchological pursuits. About 18 months ago he was in Dublin & expressed a wish to see me. I addressed him one day in a meeting & said I was myself. He looked at me with a blank expression, said nothing, turned away, & I saw him no more. My wife was with me at the time.

Mr Hemthal I have no intercourse with beyond an occasional short note perhaps once a year. He never writes to or for the Advocate, & is I believe greatly absorbed by his engagement as a missionary to the poor. He is a friend to the Am. A. S. S. but beyond this I hear nothing of him. It was in his hands the Philadelphia contributions went astray. I imagine he is not much up to business.

W. P. Powell is a poor man in the employment of others. His heart is excellent – his judgement very small. He once brought his wife and 5 or 6 children on a visit to me uninvited at a very inconvenient time. The poor woman is a born lady and was greatly distressed by this move of her lord. He has a son a surgeon, very intemperate, & one of the stupidest men I ever met with, in whose social position his father takes great satisfaction.

Francis Bishop – I am informed by Mr Robson took no part with the abolitionists in America when he was there. This amazed me for I had the highest opinion of him.

E. Mathews has never had in my opinion a warm feeling for the Am. A. S. S., but as he never opposed it that I could hear of, I did my best to keep him in countenance as an A. S. man diffusing useful information. Mrs Chapman scorns him, & rated by her high standard perhaps with justice. But this would be an unfair test for most of us, myself included.

Thomas Sturge is a good rich man, very odd & very generous, whom I have never seen.

Edward Baines patronised & assisted the Leeds Young Men – but when Dr Pomeroy came he snubbed them & patronised him. You can hardly ever trust any one who lives by an orthodox reputation.

F. W. Chesson – is poor, fussy & not his own master – I have never seen him but have always found him friendly in correspondence

On the whole there is a most incongruous medley in every thing except a nominal friendly feeling towards the cause. Except in a few cases, it would be too much to speak of a strong interest. I mentioned that many of them are poor to show that their avocations & circumstances forbid the chance of their being able to do much in the way of personal cooperation. Your one great advantage as it seems to me in the U.S. over us is that as you earn more easily you spend more freely & are less afraid of the future. Here if a man misses his hold while climbing or creeping upwards he will probably never get up again. — I am myself a middle class man of moderate means, & I am rarely free from anxiety lest the year's expenses may not ~~be~~ be met by the year's income. I am very industrious & spend about 12 hours daily in my office. I am in my 57th year & long for a time of more leisure & less anxiety of which happy time I see little prospect.

A real working, meeting, deliberating, acting league would be delightful — but I see neither the people, the circumstances nor the money that would make such a scheme practicable. In all such efforts in England, very large sums have generally been handed down by a few rich men like Joseph Sturge who were very zealous in the cause they wished to promote. Joseph I regard as a good man according to his light — but bigoted with the attendant vices & smallnesses of bigotry. Miss Chapman attributes to him as I think a most exaggerated distinction & influence for evil. I have had no acquaintance whatever with him for many years — he would not speak to me if I were to meet him. He is an intensely obstinate man with a generous heart & a small head.

As to the accounts I wish but matters stay as you state them — subject at any future time to revision & correction.

I had a long letter from Mr G. but with the true Western secrecy he made no mention of his sister, Anne.

Having heard incidentally of Lucia's illness I wrote to Rohan a day or two since hardly hoping for an answer if she be alarmingly ill.

Your particulars about G. T. were very painful. Owing to the improvidence of husband & wife it is a most difficult case to meet.

We have heard twice from my son Richard — he likes the country & means to stay a year at least. He had as yet got little employment but was in good health & hope. We shall always be glad to hear about yours. I feel far less anxiety about Richard than I did about his brother Alfred — who went for his health & did not find it. He is at home & a great assistance to me, tho' far from robust.

I never think you neglectful or any thing but most kind & attentive to my enquiries. Your letters are always a great pleasure, giving just the information I wish for.

There was no use in my writing along the margin for there is plenty of weight left. I believe I forgot to tell you that Miss Remond came to my house with Mr Robson whom I greatly liked. Miss R. was obliged to leave me & go to Mrs Edmondson's much pleasanter & more luxurious house on account of one of my daughters being ill of scarlet fever so that the poor stranger had to be left all alone. Mrs Edmundson was very kind & brought her about in her car every where. She (Miss R.) has been more than a week with my old friend Miss Shackleton who knew her in America, & ~~[illegible]~~ now lives in her old home at Ballitore 35 miles from Dublin. She is announced to hold a public meeting in Dublin this evening — I mean to deliver a lecture — which circumstances have until now prevented. I hear her highly spoken of & am anxious to judge for myself. She is also to lecture in a few days before the mechanics institute. She is ~~[illegible]~~ invited to Cork & Waterford & has I believe some engagements in England. I have given your message about the Advocate to Mr Webb who regularly forwards the American copies.

I have got a good letter from one of the Leeds Young men respecting the unfaithfulness of the Leeds A.S. clergy who spoke at their meeting & have since backed up Dr Pomeroy the Sec. of the A.B.C.F.M. —

As I am in haste & have still to write to my Australian son & to say a few words to Mrs Chapman I must conclude & remain Yours ever truly

Richd D Webb

We have had little but delightful mild weather for months past, & this is the first very wet day for ever so long but the temperature is mild as autumn

ms. B.1.6 v.15, p.40